

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 015923  
ORIGIN SS-15

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O 200249Z JAN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO US COAST GUARD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015923

EXDIS MIL ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT HAVANA 0177 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 19 JAN 78

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0177

EXDIS

PASS COMMANDANT U.S. COAST GUARD WASHDC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CU, US

SUBJECT: COAST GUARD EXCHANGE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JOINT MINUTE OF JANUARY 16 - 19  
TALKS BETWEEN CUBAN BORDER GUARD TROOPS AND U.S. COAST  
GUARD. CHAIRMAN OF US COAST GUARD DELEGATION SPECIFIED,  
AND CUBAN COUNTERPART AGREED, THAT JOINT MINUTE REPRESENTS  
RECORD OF MEETING AND IS NOT INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT.  
JOINT MINUTE WAS EXCHANGED BETWEEN PARTIES, BUT WAS  
NEITHER INITIALED NOR SIGNED. BOTH CHAIRMAN AGREED THAT  
JOINT MINUTE WOULD BE TREATED AS INTERNAL GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT.

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2. BEGIN TITLE MINUTE OF TALKS HELD BETWEEN THE BORDER GUARD TROOPS  
OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA AND THE U.S.  
COAST GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA END TITLE.

3. BEGIN TEXT

IN HAVANA, ON JANUARY 16-19, 1978, TALKS WERE HELD

ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND POSSIBLE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BORDER GUARD TROOPS OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA AND THE U.S. COAST GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "AGENCIES"). EACH SIDE PRESENTED ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION.

THE MEMBERS OF THE CUBAN DELEGATION WERE:

MAJOR AMADO VALDES GONZALEZ,  
CHIEF OF STAFF, DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF  
BORDER GUARD TROOPS, CHAIRMAN OF THE DELEGATION

MAJOR MIGUEL BERMEJO LABRADA,  
CHIEF OF THE NAVAL SECTION, DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF  
BORDER GUARD TROOPS

CAPTAIN ARMANDO URRA CABRIS,ES,  
CHIEF, INTELLIGENCE SECTION, DIRECTORATE GENERAL  
OF BORDER GUARD TROOPS

FIRST LIEUTENANT RAUL GONZALEZ LOPEZ,  
LEGAL ADVISOR, DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF BORDER  
GUARD TROOPS

BIENVENIDO GARCIA NEGRIN,  
NORTH AMERICAN DIRECTORATE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN  
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RELATIONS

ARMANDO VALMANA BETANCOURT,  
LEGAL DIRECTORATE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS

JUANITA VERA GARCIA  
INTERPRETER

THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WERE:

CAPTAIN LAWRENCE A. WHITE,  
CHIEF, SEARCH AND RESCUE DIVISION COAST GUARD  
HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D.C., CHAIRMAN OF THE  
DELEGATION

W. KENNEDY CROMWELL  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE ADVISOR TO THE COMMANDANT  
OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD

FRANKLIN K. WILLIS,  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ADVISOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CAPTAIN ROBERT L. COOK,  
CHIEF, SEARCH AND RESCUE BRANCH, SEVENTH COAST  
GUARD DISTRICT, MIAMI, FLORIDA

COMMANDER FRANK W. OLSON,  
CHIEF, SEARCH AND RESCUE BRANCH, U.S. COAST  
GUARD ATLANTIC AREA, NEW YORK, NEW YORK

COMMANDER JOHN C. IKENS,  
CHIEF, INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT BRANCH,  
SEVENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT, MIAMI, FLORIDA

ALBERT J. MCCULLOUGH,  
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CHIEF, SEARCH AND RESCUE LIAISON STAFF,  
U.S. COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.

JON D. GLASSMAN,  
FIRST SECRETARY, UNITED STATES INTERESTS SECTION,  
HAVANA

LT. COMMANDER EARL A. BLANTON,  
STAFF, MARITIME LAWS AND TREATIES BRANCH,  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS, WASHDC

STEPHANIE R. VAN REIGERSBERG,  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE INTERPRETER

THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED:

1. GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION  
OF THE TWO AGENCIES.

2. CLARIFICATION OF SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCEDURES.

3. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON AND EXPLORATION OF POSSIBLE  
COOPERATION IN:

--SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS IN GENERAL;  
--LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES CONCERNING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING  
AND ACTS OF THREAT AND/OR OF CRIMINAL VIOLENCE WHICH  
ENDANGER MARITIME NAVIGATION.

4. DISCUSSION OF STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY EACH SIDE IN CASES OF  
TEMPORARY DETENTION OR OF FORCE MAJEURE ARRIVALS BY SHIPS OF  
THE OTHER SIDE.

AS A RESULT OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS OF THE ITEMS,  
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THE DELEGATIONS AGREED TO WORK TO ENHANCE POSSIBLE  
COOPERATION AS INDICATED BELOW:

A) TO COOPERATE IN SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS.

B) TO ENHANCE SAFETY OF NAVIGATION, TO EXCHANGE  
INFORMATION RELATING TO SEARCH AND RESCUE ACTIVITIES,  
AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES CONCERNING THE SUPPRESSION  
OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ACTS OF THREAT AND/OR  
OF CRIMINAL VIOLENCE WHICH ENDANGER MARITIME NAVIGATION.

C) TO ESTABLISH THE FOLLOWING AS IMMEDIATE CHANNELS  
OF COMMUNICATION FOR THE PROPER EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION:

--FOR EMERGENCIES: THE AFTN NETWORK AND THE CLT COASTAL NETWORK;  
--FOR LESS URGENT CASES: THROUGH THE RESPECTIVE INTERESTS SECTIONS.

IN BOTH CASES INFORMATION WILL BE ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTORATE  
GENERAL OF BORDER GUARD TROOPS OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA, AND TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. COAST GUARD REGARDING CASES  
INVOLVING AIRCRAFT WILL BE SENT TO THE ICAO RCC IN HAVANA.

D) EACH SIDE WILL WORK ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
COMMUNICATIONS PLANS TO BE ANALYZED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE  
EXPERTS IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES  
FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO AGENCIES, INCLUDING ALL  
PRACTICAL MODES: VOICE, CONTINUOUS WAVES (MORSE SIGNALS),  
TELETYPE.

E) THE TWO AGENCIES WILL IN PRINCIPLE CONSIDER  
COOPERATION CONCERNING THE SUPPRESSION OF ILLICIT DRUG  
TRAFFICKING AND ACTS OF CRIMINAL VIOLENCE WHICH ENDANGER  
MARITIME NAVIGATION, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF COORDINATING  
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THEIR ACTIVITIES IN SPECIFIC CASES WHEN BOTH SIDES CONSIDER  
IT BENEFICIAL TO DO SO.

F) BY WAY OF RECIPROCITY FOR THE INFORMATION FURNISHED  
BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD TO THE BORDER GUARD TROOPS REGARDING  
PROCEDURES FOR STOPPING AND BOARDING VESSELS, THE CUBAN SIDE  
WILL FURNISH SIMILAR INFORMATION TO THE U.S. SIDE TO BE BROUGHT

TO THE ATTENTION OF PERSONS NAVIGATING IN THE AREA.

G) THE BORDER GUARD TROOPS WILL SEND TO THE U.S. COAST GUARD INFORMATION REGARDING VESSELS INVOLVED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING WHICH HAVE BEEN SEIZED BY CUBAN AUTHORITIES IN THE PAST SO THAT U.S. COAST GUARD RECORDS MAY BE UPDATED.

OTHERS MATTERS WERE ALSO DISCUSSED:

--THE U.S. DELEGATION EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN OBTAINING PERMISSION TO USE CUBAN AIR CORRIDORS IN CARRYING OUT SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSIONS SOUTH OF THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA. THE CUBAN SIDE NOTED THE INTEREST EXPRESSED AND THE PROCESSING OF THE MATTER WAS LEFT PENDING FOR SUBMISSION TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES.

--THE U.S. SIDE EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO RETURN EIGHT SMALL BOATS IF THE CUBAN SIDE WISHED TO ACCEPT THIS PROCEDURE. IF NOT, IT ASKED PERMISSION TO DISPOSE OF THE AFOREMENTIONED BOATS. IN THAT CONNECTION THE CUBAN SIDE REQUESTED A LIST OF THOSE VESSELS INDICATING THEIR NAMES AND STATE OF REPAIR FOR PURPOSES OF PROPER IDENTIFICATION, AND, GENERALLY SPEAKING WELCOMED THE PROPOSAL.

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BOTH AGENCIES CONSIDERED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WERE BENEFICIAL AND PROMOTED UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND THE BORDER GUARD TROOPS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA REGARDING THEIR RESPECTIVE WORKING PROCEDURES. BOTH AGENCIES BELIEVED FURTHER EFFORTS TO PROMOTE COOPERATION WOULD BE USEFUL AND COULD BE DISCUSSED IN FUTURE MEETINGS. END TEXT  
GLASSMAN

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 20 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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